



# TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

T R A N S F O R M I N G Y O U N G L I V E S A N D C R E A T I N G S A F E R C O M M U N I T I E S

## Response to the Independent Ombudsman Fourth Quarter Report, FY 2017 October 30, 2017

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has received the FY 17 Fourth Quarter Report from the Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO). TJJD appreciates the opportunity to respond.

The OIO increased its presence in state and contract facilities in FY 17 with 36 more visits compared to FY 16, an 18.4 percent increase, and 181 more youth interviews, a 5.8 percent increase. While the number of complaints originating from families (12) decreased in FY 17 and the number originating from OIO staff (7) stayed the same, youth-originated complaints led an overall increase to 137 cases in state and contract facilities. The corresponding number of total visits between youth and OIO staff was 3291. Of the closed cases involving TJJD youth, the OIO determined that 43.7 percent were founded, compared to 52.6 percent in FY 16.

TJJD has entered the sustainability phase of the Youth in Custody Practice Model. This work will continue to result in better overall re-entry planning, improvements to case management, more developmentally appropriate experiences for youth, and more family-centered practices that can motivate and sustain the progress youth make in treatment.

As always, TJJD appreciates the opportunity to respond to the OIO and looks forward to sharing updates on these efforts that continue to move the agency effectively forward.

